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DISPATCH NO. OTPA-3,98

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ROUTINE

TO : Chief, WE
Attn: Chief, Italian Branch
FROM : Senior Representative, ☐ ☒ ☐

DATE 15 April 1954

SUBJECT: GENERAL—

SPECIFIC— Karl HASS-Massimo UFFREDUZZI Contacts

Source: ☐ ☒ ☐

Date of info: 10 March 1954

Date recd: 23 March 1954

Evaluation: B-3

per CMI 43-23

1. From the many investigations carried out recently regarding possible collusion between HASS and elements of the newspaper Il Secolo d'Italia, which published a poisonous attack against the "GEHLEN Bureau", nothing new emerged. Therefore, it is confirmed that the article in question was taken by the journalist, Edgardo BELTRAMETTI, from the German review Spiegel and Rundschau which took a great interest in the GEHLEN affair. There was no confirmation that HASS could have been the inspiration of the article in that there exist no ties between him and the newspaper ambient.

2. The HASS-UFFREDUZZI relations have always been very tense, even though there was an occasional let-up, since the time in which they met (1943) working side by side in the German intelligence organization operating in Italy.

3. UFFREDUZZI, in December 1953, through his CS contact in Rome, was urged to carry out an investigation within the Il Secolo d'Italia milieu in order to identify the author of the article on the "GEHLEN Bureau" who wrote under the pen name "BEL."

4. Information obtained through UFFREDUZZI, added to other data gathered on the question by direct action, was reported previously (22 December 1953: "BEL" was identified in the journalist Edgardo BELTRAMETTI).

5. UFFREDUZZI's work was put on an anti-HASS basis because of the old bitterness which existed between them. Only about the middle of January 1954 did the HASS-UFFREDUZZI relations improve inexplicably,

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becoming cordial and friendly.

6. An explanation for the change was sought and was found in the business relations which UFFREDUZZI and his father had had with HASS regarding a large supply of German medical supplies to the INAIL (Istituto Nazionale Assicurazioni control gli Infortuni sul Lavoro) within which UFFREDUZZI pere held a high-ranking position (among other things he facilitated, through the pressure of DC personalities, the acquisition, for 200 million lire, of an old Jesuit convent situated in Via Ripetta, the value of which was much lower than the price paid).

7. Since relations between them had changed, and they had common business interests, it is possible that UFFREDUZZI confided to HASS that he had worked for the CS; that the "Mercury Agency Press" serves as a cover, etc. Source said, "it is possible" because he does not exclude the hypothesis, since the HASS-UFFREDUZZI relations improved after these events took place, that HASS was pressured into saying that which he later referred to the "R" Office from his usual friends in the Interior Ministry.

8. From a certain point of view it is in fact incomprehensible that UFFREDUZZI, still a bitter enemy of HASS, would confide to the latter things which have further deteriorated their already tense relations, thereby furnishing HASS with proof of activity carried out against him.

9. UFFREDUZZI is what he is, but he has never reached the point where he would hurt himself to favor or warn a personal enemy which, until the middle of last January, is what HASS was as far as UFFREDUZZI was concerned.

10. HASS went into the toy business at the end of November 1953 when the German IS headed by Lois HEINZ, GEHLEN, et al fell, and he went into partnership with his old friend, Harold EMBECKE, whose firm, Intersommercio (offices in Via Pierluigi da Palestrina 47), had been practically completely inactive. The Christmas holidays and the toys sold in Rome gave new life to the EMBECKE firm. But the profits were used up in no time.

11. This attracted the interest of the CS because of intervention, in HASS' and EMBECKE's favor, by the STEIN shipping company (offices in via Barberini*) who facilitate, with long-term credit, the operations of the two. The question is still the object of careful examination, more so since STEIN is the official shipper for the United States Embassy in Rome.

*Field Comment: Actually they are on Via del Babuino.

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12. The Congress, proposed by the Peronista youth organization of Dr. Fernando Raul MITJANS, has not yet taken place nor does it appear that it will in the near future. UFFREDUZZI himself knew nothing about it.

13. HASS, as is known, was supposed to make a trip to Cairo on his own account, not for Il Secolo d'Italia with which he has no contact and, due to the bad reputation he has in Rome, he would have been definitely refused if he had attempted to approach the newspaper's milieu.

14. The HASS-Interior Ministry relations continue to be very close, although less frequent. It is rare that the Ministry of the Interior will grant permission to consult the HASS file which is held by the PS with the following instructions:

- a. The file is to be kept in an envelope bearing the legend: "Attention - keep sealed."
- b. On the envelope is a card bearing the following:
"Attention, before giving anyone this file, see me. Signed Dr. FONTANA, Chief of the Foreigners Office."

15. These are extraordinary measures, extremely favorable to HASS whose activity is always supported by the well-known functionaries of the Interior Ministry.

Prepared by []

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